

admirably served our nation in Munich, Germany. During this time, he traveled extensively in Europe and began what was soon-to-be many decades of adventure.

Soon after, he married the love of his life, Margarite "Scotty" Brockman. Although Chuck and Scotty never had any children of their own, they were known for their generosity and willingness to "adopt" individuals they mentored throughout their lives. This epitomizes the man that Chuck Brockman was—he was always willing to take care of others as if they were his own family.

Chuck worked in the composing room at the Macomb Daily newspaper for 34 years before he semi-retired in 1999. At that time, he launched a boating column to share his passion for sailing and the sea with others. An avid recreational boater, he would write about places to go and the stories behind them. Instead of retiring and quietly enjoying the twilight of his life, in his usual adventurous style, Chuck chose to continue sharing his fearless experiences on the beautiful waters of the Great Lakes for all to learn more.

Chuck continued his advocacy about the natural wonders of the Lakes and its maritime heritage when he founded and ran the Save Our South Channel Lights, an organization devoted to restoring historically important lighthouses in Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. These South Channel lighthouses, also known as the Twin Sisters, were built before Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States and were used for many years by mariners sailing across Lake St. Clair and entering the South Channel up to the St. Clair River. Unfortunately, they fell into disrepair and were neglected, and many thought they would simply fall into the lake and be forgotten. That is, until Chuck Brockman made it his mission to save them. He was a passionate spokesperson for this project that raised funds for equipment and worked to maintain structures of lighthouses that were falling into the lake. Because of his tireless efforts, Chuck's organization raised about \$900,000 and now has lighthouses listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Chuck was able to recruit and inspire so many dedicated individuals into this project. Because of this, even though he has sailed on, this work will continue; this is a true legacy.

I first met Chuck when I was a Harrison Township Supervisor in the 1980s. We instantly formed a bond because of our common love for boating. Later when I became Secretary of State, I relied on Chuck's sage advice for many projects impacting southeast Michigan, particularly the lighthouses. As Secretary of State for Michigan, I established a license plate fundraising program that financially supported the preservation of all 124 of Michigan's lighthouses. Like Chuck, I also appreciate the austere beauty of lighthouses and the important role they play for all sailors. Chuck and I worked closely during my time as Secretary of State and then when I entered Congress to preserve these structures. I was amazed and inspired by his enthusiasm, zeal, and quiet strength in accomplishing what many thought was an insurmountable feat. I considered him an advisor on these issues and a loyal friend.

On March 1, 2015, Chuck passed away peacefully in his home on Harsens Island. I know that I am not alone in saying that I will miss his positive outlook on life and stories of his adventures—both on and off the water.

Mark Twain once said:

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

Chuck's life was the embodiment of this saying. In the 80 years that he spent on Earth, he explored, sailed, loved, taught, mentored, learned, gave, and most importantly, lived.

Chuck has left a sizeable legacy for the people of Michigan. It is people like him that forever leave an imprint in our minds and on our hearts.

Fair winds and following seas, Chuck.

#### HONORING AN INSPIRING HERO IN NEVADA'S STATE ASSEMBLY: HARVEY MUNFORD

#### HON. CRESENT HARDY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a great legend in the Nevada State Assembly today. Elected in 2004, Assemblyman Harvey Munford (D-Las Vegas), broke boundaries with a storied career in Nevada. Standing 6 feet, 8 inches, Harvey was destined to be on the basketball court. While being the first black man to attend and graduate from Montana State University at Billings, he laced up his shoes and hit the hardwood quickly becoming an All-American in the sport. After a record setting career in college, Harvey was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers only to be sidelined permanently from the game with a knee injury. Turning to the classroom, Harvey settled in and became a towering presence in lives of students for over 36 years teaching at both the high school and community college level. After retiring from teaching, he turned his attention to the Statehouse and decided to become an opposing figure in the Assembly. Bringing his non-stop work ethic to debates, I quickly respected and enjoyed being around Harvey. That is why Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Harvey Munford today for a storied career in public service representing Nevada residents.

#### PRAKUL SURESH'S ESSAY

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Prakul Suresh attends Elkins High School in Missouri City, Texas. The essay topic is: in

your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A government is an establishment created by citizens in order to protect and provide for the people of the country. Personally, I believe the role of a government is to do what is best for its citizens in a just manner. The government ought to try to protect its subjects and uphold societal welfare in the best way possible, whether it is through action or inaction.

A primary goal of the government is to ensure the country is safe from foreign attacks. For example, after the September 11th terrorist attacks, America responded with force and began operations against Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden in order to protect our homeland. The American government has an obligation to keep its citizens safe against war as well. There are many ways in which a government can approach this. One method is to fight against enemies to keep America safe. Another method is to try to keep peace without compromising our interests and principles in order to ensure Americans do not have to unnecessarily fight. The task of protecting our nation is extremely difficult, considering the plethora of threats that nations such as the United States get. However, it is vital that America protects the safety of the nation.

Another duty is to ensure all Americans have the opportunity to succeed. One mechanism through which the government can do this is by making public education affordable and within reach to the common man. By promoting a properly functioning public education system, the government guarantees that anyone, regardless of gender, race or any other factor, has an opportunity to succeed. The government should also have an environment that encourages innovation, success and hard work, not an entitlement society. The government is obligated to give everybody equal opportunities at success, which is a foundation for a prosperous society.

Finally, I believe the government ought to try to create a stable, powerful economy. Businesses employ people, provide a sense of purpose to the people, pay taxes to fund the nation, and promote what makes America great: hard work, innovation and a powerful economy. By creating stable policies and providing incentives to draw investors and businesses, as well as supporting existing businesses, America can grow its dynamic economy. Policies such as low tax rates and simplified laws can help incentivize investing in the United States. It would be in the public's best interest to have a powerful economy, which leads to a powerful nation.

As Ronald Reagan once said, "government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives." The government should ensure that society is protected, whether it be protecting against foreign threats, protecting the opportunity to succeed, or protecting the economy. Through protection, the government can take the best actions and inactions regarding numerous issues.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JASON WILLIS

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason Willis for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.